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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SIG-01
MMO-01 SSO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
NSAE-00 INRE-00 /059 R

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ILO

SUBJECT: STRUCTURAL REFORM OF ILO GOVERNING BODY

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REF: (A) GENEVA 932; (B) STATE 16450

1. AS EMBASSY AWARE, THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO LEAVE THE ILO WAS MADE RELUCTANTLY AND WITH THE HOPE THAT THE PROBLEMS WHICH CAUSED THE US TO WITHDRAW (DESCRIBED IN OUR NOVEMBER 1975 WITHDRAWAL NOTICE) COULD BE OVERCOME, PERMITTING THE US TO RE-ENTER THE ORGANIZATION. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, ALTHOUGH STILL TENTATIVE, ENCOURAGE US TO BELIEVE THAT SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS CAN BE MADE IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS IN CREATING CONDITIONS FOR OUR RE-ENTRY.

2. UNFORTUNATELY, BEFORE THESE ISSUES CAN BE RESOLVED, THE ILO MUST DEAL WITH PRESSURES FROM THE G-77 FOR STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE ILO GOVERNING BODY (GB). THE INDUSTRIAL MARKET ECONOMY COUNTRY (IMEC) MEMBERS OF THE ILO ARE INFORMALLY COMMITTED TO MAKE A PROPOSAL FOR STRUCTURAL REFORM OF THE GB PRIOR TO A SESSION OF THE GB WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 6-18.

3. THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY IS SCHEDULED TO PRESENT ITS PROPOSAL FOR STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT GROUP OF THE GB TO OTHER IMEC MEMBERS IN GENEVA ON JANUARY 25 (SEE REFTEL A, REPEATED FROM GENEVA). WE INSTRUCTED OUR MISSION IN GENEVA TO INFORM EC REPRESENTATIVES THAT WE VIEW THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROPOSAL AS A NEGATIVE STEP AND SUGGESTED AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE US (REFTEL B).

4. OUR MISSION IN GENEVA IS CONVINCED THAT WE MUST MAKE URGENT REPRESENTATION IN IMEC CAPITALS IF WE ARE TO ARREST THE MOMENTUM WHICH THE EC PROPOSAL HAS CREATED AND BUILD A CONSENSUS AROUND OUR ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL. THE MISSION URGES THAT SUCH REPRESENTATIONS BE MADE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 24 (I.E., PRECEDING THE IMEC MEETING IN GENEVA ON JANUARY 25).

5. ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD SEEK URGENT APPOINTMENTS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS US REACTION TO EC PROPOSAL AND COUNTER-PROPOSAL SUGGESTED TO USG. YOU SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. WE GREATLY APPRECIATE EC-9 WILLINGNESS TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH USG REGARDING ILO STRUCTURAL REFORM.

B. WE BELIEVE IT IS BEST TO AVOID ANY FINAL CONCLUSIONS AT THE JANUARY 25 MEETING. IN OUR OPINION THE BEST OUTCOME OF THE MEETING WOULD BE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF

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A WORKING PARTY IN GENEVA TO SEE WHETHER A COMMON IMEC POSITION COULD NOT BE DEVELOPED ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE US COUNTER-PROPOSAL IN TIME FOR PRESENTATION TO THE G-77 ON FEBRUARY 6.

C. WE HAVE INSTRUCTED THE US AMBASSADOR IN GENEVA TO TAKE PART IN SUCH A WORKING GROUP AND WOULD HOPE THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA COULD BE SIMILARLY INSTRUCTED.

6. REPORT HOST GOVERNMENT REACTION WITH INFO COPY TO GENEVA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE018356
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JLMILLS:OF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780034-0846
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780128/aaaaaxsr.tel
Line Count: 136
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 86e1a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GENEVA 932, 78 STATE 16450
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3722634
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STRUCTURAL REFORM OF ILO GOVERNING BODY
TAGS: ELAB, BE, ILO
To: BRUSSELS BONN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/86e1a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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